

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Insultech

Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex)

InsulTech LLC Improves Processes and Secures New Contract

Client Profile:

InsulTech LLC is a manufacturer of high quality insulating products used in automotive, industrial, and aerospace products. InsulTech offers complete and comprehensive services beginning with thermal analysis through finished design format and manufacturing for their products. The company employs 90 people at its facility in Santa Ana, California.

Situation:

InsulTech was proactively pursuing the implementation of Lean manufacturing in their Santa Ana operations, in order to provide high quality solutions to customers' needs, as well as improve their customer base. InsulTech asked the Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to design and implement a mentoring program for key operations employees, with the objectives of increasing process efficiencies, improving the flow of materials, reducing rework, eliminating errors and maximizing customer order performance.

Solution:

Manex assessed the company's production environment to create a prioritized roadmap for 'quick kit' improvements, used Lean manufacturing processes to increase efficiencies, improve the flow of materials, improve quality, and decrease lead times. Manex trained a number of employees in 5S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain); implemented two high level Practical Problem Solving programs to support the Caterpillar Inc. Supplier Quality Excellence Process Certification program; assisted in the re-layout of the office and front end operations to facilitate an error-free order entry system; created a Kanban replenishment system in the finished goods area and set up the finished goods racking system and warehouse; and streamlined the organization and supported managers to lead the company.

Results:

- * Reduced costs for order entry processing by approximately 15 percent to 20 percent.
- * Anticipated reduction in costs by 10 percent to 12 percent.
- * Reduced inventory by approximately 30 percent.
- * Secured \$7 million contract.

Testimonial:

"Manex increased our throughput and efficiencies dramatically. These improvements helped us secure a multi-million dollar contract with one of the largest manufacturers in the world."

Chris Harano, President

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